

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH, ON WEDNESDAY, 24th MAY, 2017

Present - Councillors A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, D. Ó'Cadhlá, G. Keohane, K. McCarthy, P. O'Sullivan.

Apologies: Cllr. Sinead Sheppard.

Officials Present:

Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. P. Lynch, Cobh Municipal District Officer
Ms. Mary McSweeney, Ass. Staff Officer, Cobh Municipal District.

HOUSING ISSUE

Cllr. Diarmaid O'Cadhlá expressed his grave concern for the health and wellbeing of tenants occupying a private dwelling in Cobh. The property was examined by the Fire Dept back in November, 2016, and Landlord was informed that the premises should be vacated. Cllr. O'Cadhlá felt that the tenants in question did not want to vacate the premises as they did not want to go into emergency accommodation i.e. Bed & Breakfast.

Sean O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer, agreed to email Maurice Manning, Director of Housing, outlining the urgency of this particular case.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Paraig Lynch, Municipal District Officer, outlined to the Members that an allocation of €135,000 was being made available for projects for Cobh/Glanmire/Carrigwohill under the Town Development Fund 2017. The list of proposed projects received from the 3 towns and a suggested breakdown of distribution of the money was then circulated to the members for consideration.

Cork Co. Council – Municipal District Painting Scheme – a fund of €20,000 has been set aside for a streetscape painting and signage scheme 2017. Tenants/owners of buildings within the Municipal District Area can avail of a grant of up to 50% of the cost of painting the facades/replacing of existing plastic, neon & printed signs with “Heritage type signs” Closing date for this scheme is Friday 26th May. However, it was agreed to allow applications after that date.

Cobh Streetscape – A sum of €20,000 is being set aside for the upgrading of Cobh streetscape after proposed works by Irish Water have been completed.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Carrigwohill has been chosen for this Department run scheme. Department funding amounting to €47,000, is being allocated to fund projects that help boost economic activity in the village, and a sum of €8,500 is proposed from the Town Development Fund

Cobh Playground – A sum of €40,000 was agreed by the members previously for the proposed extension to existing playground at the Five Foot Way in Cobh, a further €7,000 has been pledged by the Department, together with local fundraising by the playground committee. It is hoped that the project will go out to tender with a start date before the end of 2017.

Cobh & Harbour Chamber – An allocation of €8,000 was recommended for Christmas Lighting (Town Centre/Top of Hill). This is the 3rd year of a 3 year upgrade project initially proposed by the Chamber.

Cobh & Harbour Chamber – The sum of €5,000 has been recommended for the annual maintenance of the Christmas lights.

Cobh & Harbour Chamber – The sum of €3,000 has been recommended for the annual running cost of the Tourist Office.

Cobh Tourism/Cobh First Responders – The sum of €2,000 has been recommended for the provision of a Telephone AED with 24 hour access in the town centre, it is envisaged that Kennedy Pier would be the appropriate location.

Glanmire & Area Chamber of Commerce – The sum of €7,000 is recommended for the provision of the expansion of the Christmas Lighting project in Glanmire.

Business Community Awards – The sum of €3,000 is recommended for the introduction of a Community & Business Awards Scheme in 2017, the aim of which is to keep business in Glanmire, and award people in the community who make a difference.

Carrigtwohill Community Council – The sum of €8,000 is recommended for the development of a “Business Expo” – the aim of which is to provide a valuable source of information for customers and visitors to Carrigtwohill.

Gala Awards Night – The sum of €3,000 is recommended for a Gala awards night, the aim of which, is to showcase what’s best in Carrigtwohill by awarding businesses, and those involved in the Tidy Towns in Carrigtwohill.

Carrigtwohill Community Council – physical works – the sum of €7,500 is recommended for this work which is to enhance the experience for shoppers and visitors to Carrigtwohill. The works would be carried out by Tidy Towns and Community Council volunteers.

Definition Of Town

Cllr. O’Sullivan asked for clarification of the definition and scope of “Town” under the Town Development Fund guidelines. He felt that Little Island has a large business economic infrastructure, large numbers employed in the area, yet it still does not qualify for funding under the present guidelines.

Mr. O’Callaghan advised Cllr. O’Sullivan , if the community in Little Island have a project in mind, they may qualify for funding from other sources e.g. Economic Development Fund.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, Seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed to accept the recommendations of the Municipal District Officer in relation to the Town Development Fund. It was further agreed that in the event that the full €20,000 allocated for the MD Paint Scheme was not used up then the balance remaining would be further dispersed to the towns.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer